(c) what action Government have taken to improve the quantity of oil production per employee to reach the international standard and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The cost of production of crude oil varies from field to field and country to country based on different characteristics of the reservoir and its location.

The average cost of production of crude oil by ONGC during the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 was Rs. 2066, Rs. 2301 ad Rs. 2566 per metric tonne, respectively.

For ONGC, the average rate of production per employee was 1.40 tonnes per day in the year 1992-93.

Data regarding cost of crude oil production and production per employee internationally is not maintained.

(c) Steps taken to reduce cost of production of oil and gas, including cost of manpower, are continuous and close monitoring of expenditure, use of latest technology, introduction of improved managerial techniques etc.

Restriction on Entry of Public Sector Oil Companies

1182. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have restricted Public Sector Oil Companies from entering the parallel marketing of petroleum products at market related prices; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Public Sector Oil Companies had requested for an explicit permission from Government for importing kerosene and liquified petroleum gas (LPG) and selling them at market prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) The parallel marketing system is aimed at involving private sector investment to supplement the resources of the public sector in distribution and marketing of kerosene and LPG.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Private Sector in Import and Distribution of LPG

1183. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to allow private sector to enter the import and distribution of liquified petroleum gas;

(b) what are the guidelines prescribed for this;

(c) how many parties have come forward to import LPG; and

(d) what mechanism has been evolved to regulate the price of the imported products ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Private agencies have been allowed to import LPG, using/setting up their own facilities, LPG bottling plants and marketing outlets for sale of such

imported LPG, through a separate distribution network, at market prices.

(c) About 20 private enterpreneurs including multinationals have shown interest in and made enquiries about importing LPG.

(d) The prices would be determined by market forces.

Non-Renewal of Contract with Malaysia for Supply of Petroleum Products

1184. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided not to renew contract with Malaysia for supply of petroleum products;

(b) what are the reasons for this decision; and

(c) what alternative sources have been identified to ensure uninterrupted supply of petroleum products, including crude oil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (c) While contract for the supply of .50 MMT of crude oil was renewed the contract for the supply of petroleum products viz., SKO and HSD was not renewed on economic considerations as the price offered was on the higher side.

Retention of Equity by Iranian Oil Company

1185. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Madras Refineries Limited has approached Government for clearance to go in for private placement to enable the Iranian Oil Company to retain its equity stake; and

(b) what is the response of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Madras Refineries Limited has proposed to come out with a Partly Convertible Debenture (PCD) Issue of Rs. 525 crores. NIOC has expressed interest to subscribe to the PCDs to the proportionate extent of its holding. Government of India has since approved the Issue in January, 1993.

Implementation of Schemes During the Eighth Five Year Plan

1186. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI : SHRI MOOL CHAND MEENA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the schemes oil and natural gas proposed to be taken up during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the places where such schemes are to be implemented and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to lay oil pipeline between Vijayawada and Vishakhapatnam also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The major schemes pertaining to upstream oil and gas sector proposed to be taken up during the Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) with places of implementation and cost thereof as approved by Planning Commission are given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.